

FEBRUARY

1ST BATTALION, 3D MARINES NEWSLETTER



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~Sergeant Major Jones and Lieutenant Colonel Riordan at Camp Tarawa~

“Aloha kakou and welina” Aloha to all and warmest greetings, from the Big Island,

We are a week into our training; 6200 feet up on the Mauna Loa volcano; and counting down the days until we get home and back to our families...at least for a little while. Exercise LAVA VIPER is better training than most of us could have imagined. Although rain, cold, wind and cloud cover has been frequent, the Lava Dogs spirit and focus remains high. None of us wants to be away from the comforts of our families and homes, but we are committed to preparing for our mission and that keeps us going.

We are just a few miles from Camp Tarawa which is our forbears from the 2nd Marine Division built and trained at before being shipped to the battle of Tarawa in World War II. Pohakula Training Area (PTA) is well known for its harsh and dusty conditions, and for the lava rocks that cut and tear at boots and trousers. These lava rocks were dubbed “Lava Dogs” by the WWII Marines who trained here. The Marines are forging tight bonds of friendship that will protect them and sustain them through our upcoming deployment. There are few comforts here, yet there is plenty of motivation. You have good reason to be proud for the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of your Marine or Sailor.

I hope you received the recent brief that we prepared for our spouses and families. We have worked hard to ensure that the dates and information in that brief were as accurate and timely as possible. Although we still have to finish Lava Viper and execute Mojave Viper, I’m pleased that we can also begin to plan some well deserved pre-deployment leave. As you can see from our schedule, we have lots left to do, and not that much time to get it accomplished.

In our ongoing effort to better communicate to our families, we will be starting a Facebook page as well as starting regular updates to our website and 1-800 phone number. We encourage your thoughts and ideas about how to best stay in touch.

Thank you for your unfailing support.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Sean Riordan



SERGEANT MAJOR'S DESK



Families and Friends of 1/3,

The men of 1/3 had an awesome opportunity to train on the Big Island of Hawaii in January and February. The men raved about the great training that was provided by the battalion. . . live-fire training, role player driving, fire support training. . . you name it, they did it. The battalion has really started to gel as a Task Force. Your husbands and sons are not missing an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their fellow Marines and Sailors. I am so thrilled when LtCol Riordan and I observe your loved ones in action during our circulation of the training areas. It makes me proud to know that these young leaders have matured immensely through trial and error in training. I can see the maturing and hardening of your Marines and Sailors, which will enable them to

withstand the hardships of our upcoming deployment. LtCol Riordan and I are in a great position to support your men and allow them to do what they are trained to do. We have three mottos that we would like to relay to the Marines and Sailors of 1/3:

1. "Front Toward Enemy" - We will attack our problems and enemies head on.
2. "Get Your Brothers' Back" - We must look out for and take care of each other whenever and wherever we are.
3. "No Targets In 1/3" - All of the men of 1/3 have proudly earned the title Marine or Sailor and we will strive to live up to the legacy of those that have gone before us. There are no other Rites of Passage.

I encourage each of you to stay involved in our Family Readiness Program. Mrs. Theresa Thoma, 1/3 Family Readiness Officer, continues to do great things for our families and program. If there is anything that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. God Bless and Simper Fidelis!!
Sergeant Major Sends



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - CHAPLAIN RHOADES



Sometime during junior high my Grandmother admonished me, "The older you get the faster the years go by." At the time, I didn't give it much thought, but now at 41, having possibly lived more life than I have in front of me, I appreciate her wisdom.

Her words on the brevity of existence were reinforced again when I recently Googled "Savin Me" performed by Nickelback. After being rescued from the path of a speeding bus, the video's main character can see numbers over the heads of those around him. Visible only to him, he soon realizes that they were ticking away the seconds of that individual's life. As he wanders the streets, he watched someone's numbers run out as paramedics tried to save her. On a park bench, he noticed a woman with two sets of numbers, one for her and the other for her unborn child. All around him people raced

about their lives, oblivious to the time they had left.

Have you ever wondered how you would act if you knew how many numbers remained on your clock? Would it change the way you responded to others or would it alter your priorities? Would you spend less time focused on yourself and more time with your family? Or perhaps make time for that phone call to an old friend instead of picking up the remote? Few people, including myself, are comfortable thinking about the inevitable arrival of death. Even so, if you get a chance, Google "Savin Me" by Nickelback and take a few minutes to reflect on what your time is.

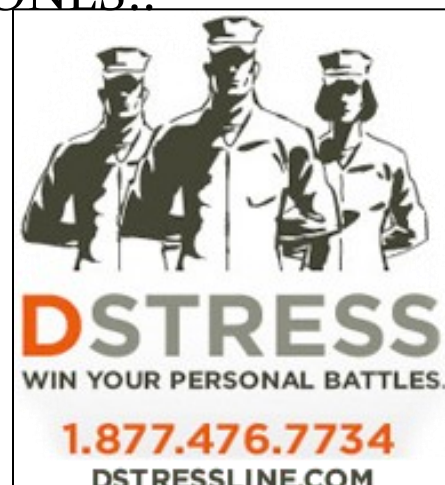
Chaplain Carl Rhoads (carl.rhoads@usmc.mil)

DSTRESS — EXCLUSIVELY FOR MARINES THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES!!

**A PLACE TO CALL – FOR THOSE WITH THE COURAGE
TO ANSWER OUR NATION'S CALL**

- For any stress related issues including work, personal, relationship, financial and family
- Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Anonymous counseling provided by trained professionals
- Exclusively for Marines, their families and loved ones

A service provided by the Marine Corps



ALPHA COMPANY

Greetings from the Big Island! We're well into our busy pre-deployment training program. This month we've been training at the Pohakuloa

Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. This unique training area allows us to come together and develop our squads and platoons in preparation for evaluation in February and March at Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper in 29 Palms, CA. Before we know it, we'll be on our way to Afghanistan for deployment. That's why it is important for us to get the most out of every training day; we'll do that by working hard and utilizing the support provided to us by the battalion and external supporting agencies. In the field, we'll be working hard to develop the skills that will make us successful in Afghanistan and when we're not in the field, we'll be working hard to ensure that we are administratively ready to deploy. Please make the most out of every day we're not training to spend quality time with your Marine or Sailor and to prepare your family for the upcoming deployment.

Thanks to everyone who came to our company party at Pyramid Rock Beach on 7 January 2011. It was great to see so many Marines and families having a good time on a great day. We look forward to having another event before deployment.

Congratulations to these Alpha Company Marines who were promoted on 1 January:

SSgt Rodriguez
Cpl Bryson III
Cpl Coleman
LCpl Jenkins Jr.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Josh Cavan (joshua.cavan@usmc.mil)



BRAVO COMPANY

Aloha, Bravo Company,

It's been another great month for Bravo Company. We were blessed with the arrival of 1stSgt Crayton and his family to the company. After enjoying the holiday period, we returned to Oahu and then rapidly deployed to the Big Island of Hawaii in order to participate in Exercise Lava Viper aboard the Pohakuloa Training Area, often referred to as "PTA." Since we've been at PTA, we've been working really hard and training every day to improve our individual and small unit skills. We've also been improving our physical and mental toughness because we've had to deal with heavy rains, high winds, and cold temperatures. I wish that you could see the improvements that your Marines made on the team, squad, and platoon live-fire training events. . . they were extraordinary. When we return to Oahu, you will observe an improved sense of self-confidence and positive presence from your Marine or Sailor. . . I guarantee it. I look forward to meeting you before we deploy.

I want to congratulate the following Marines:

January Promotions:	Marriages:
SSgt Mussa	2ndLt Alfonso 1 January 2011
Cpl Kelley	Cpl Nicholas married in December 2010
LCpl Miller	LCpl Brian married in December 2010
LCpl Gross	LCpl Christopher married in December 2010

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Brandon Stibb (brandon.stibb@usmc.mil)

1stSgt Joshua Crayton (joshua.crayton@usmc.mil)



CHARLIE COMPANY

Hello Family and Friends,

My name is Captain Chuck Siedlecki and I am the new Commanding Officer of Charlie Company. My wife and I are very excited to be a part of the 1/3 family and look forward to working with all of you.

As you know, Charlie Company is currently at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. We are extremely lucky to have such a versatile training area that can facilitate all our pre-deployment training requirements. Currently, we are focusing on individual through platoon-level tactics in preparation for next month's exercise, Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper, in 29 Palms, CA. During that exercise, we will be evaluated on our proficiency in platoon and company-level operations.

The next few months will be very busy. We will do our best to efficiently make use of the remaining time available in order to allow your Marine or Sailor to spend as much quality time with you as possible. Deployments can be very stressful. . . if you need assistance, please ask. First Sergeant Allen, Theresa Thoma, and I will gladly help you. We are here to assist our Marines, Sailors, and families in anyway possible.

I would like to welcome First Sergeant Mullis, 2dLt Merry, and 2dLt Hodlin to the company.

I would like to bid farewell First Sergeant Smith who has effectively served with Charlie Company for three years, including two combat deployments (one to Iraq, one to Afghanistan). We'll miss you; good luck at 3d Radio Battalion.

I would like to congratulate the following Marines:

Gunnery Sergeant Budd for his selection to First Sergeant.

Staff Sergeant Privitar for his promotion to Staff Sergeant.

Corporal Dial for his meritorious promotion to Corporal.

Sergeant Roberts for being recognized as the Marine Corps Institute's Graduate of the Year; he will be recognized at a luncheon hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in April.

Sergeant Johnson for being awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for his heroic actions in Afghanistan last year.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,

Capt Chuck Siedlecki (charles.siedlecki@usmc.mil) and 1stSgt Allen Mullis (allen.w.mullis@usmc.mil)

H & S COMPANY

Dear family and friends,

Please allow me a moment to introduce myself. My name is Captain Jasen Hoffman and I am the new Headquarters and Service Company Commander. I will be the Company Commander for the upcoming training and our eventual deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From what I have seen in my short time here in the battalion, the Marines and Sailors of H & S Company are performing admirably and helping ensure that the line companies are well supported and ready to take the fight to the enemy.

Currently, H & S Company is supporting the battalion at Exercise Lava Viper aboard the Pakuhola Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island of Hawaii. This exercise is crucial to the battalion's success at Enhanced Mojave Viper in 29 Palms, CA and our deployment. With new personnel throughout the battalion, there is a new air of motivation and excitement as we tackle the challenges that face us. Without the support of the Marines and Sailors of H & S, none of what we do would be possible. Our focus as a company staff is to make sure that all of our sections have everything they need to complete their mission. Thank you for supporting your Marine and Sailor. Without you "holding down the fort" we would not be able to do what we do. I realize that that line gets thrown around a lot, but it is so very true. I wholeheartedly support Lt Col Riordan when he says that if at all possible we will get your Marine or Sailor home for family emergencies, births, etc... There is nothing more important to us than making sure that our families are taken care of as well.

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you. We will strive for continued success and excellence throughout our work-up. I am making fully available to you myself, 1st Sgt Lucas, and 1st Lt Carley. As a family man I understand what it is like to leave the ones you love and how difficult it is to say goodbye. We are here for you and will do whatever we can to make this as easy as possible for you.

Respectfully sent,

Capt Jasen Hoffman (jandshoffman@hotmail.com
<mailto:jandshoffman@hotmail.com>)



WEAPONS COMPANY

Friends and Family of Weapons Company,

The last month has been both a time to relax while enjoying the holidays and a time to focus on challenging training that continues to increase the capabilities of our company. Marines from Weapons Company completed numerous leadership courses in their military occupational specialties. Sergeant Whiteman did extremely well as the Infantry Squad Leaders Course and received the coveted Gung Ho and Honor Graduate Awards for his superior performance.

On 28 December 2010, 12 Marines and Sailors from Weapons Company volunteered at the Pupukeya Boy Scout Camp and assisted in teaching field skills and marksmanship. After enjoying some well deserved holiday leave, the company returned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii. I would like to congratulate Corporals Lopez and Houck for joining our Corps' Noncommissioned Officer ranks on 3 January 2011. I would also like to congratulate Corporal McDonald and Lance Corporal Beebe for being selected Company Noncommissioned Officer and Marine of the Quarter, respectively.

In early January, we deployed to the Pohakuloa Training Area to complete some challenging training. I am confident that our company is continuing to gain strength in our ability to perform well both in training and on our upcoming deployment. I would like to reiterate that your support is what enables our Marines and Sailors to focus on the training they need. I encourage family members to attend upcoming family readiness meetings that are published in this newsletter. These meetings will provide valuable information about the next few months and provide you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Thank you again for your patience and support.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Andrew Gourgoumis (andrew.gourgoumis@usmc.mil)

1stSgt Paul Davis (paul.t.davis@usmc.mil)

FAMILY READINESS - THERESA THOMA

Friends and Family of 1st Battalion, 3d Marines

Thank you for the many kind of comments regarding the Family Readiness Brief that our 1/3 command and operations Marines put together. Many of you are veterans of the deployment process. You know it is a tricky thing for the command to provide the information families need to make their plans for farewells and reunions. Putting out information too early means families will make plans based on those dates and the dates can shift; putting it out later means families are on hold for making their plans. Add to that the distance across the ocean to Hawaii and what that means in terms of airline prices! The Marines laying out the calendars also have families, so they understand the frustrations that may come with family planning around a combat deployment. They balance the wait for confidence in scheduled dates and security considerations with families waiting for the information. The opportunity to spend time with your Marine or Sailor is very precious to you and them. The command appreciates this and will continue to provide you with information when they can, and ask for your patience when they cannot.

As our Lava Dogs are making mission plans, remember to continue planning of your own! Family Care Plans, Powers of Attorney (POA) and vehicle registrations are all things with expiration dates. Be sure to check the dates on these things to see that you are covered through the full deployment and maybe even a little beyond just to be safe! Does the FRO have your latest contact information and do you have hers? Do you have the number for the 1/3 Duty for urgent or emergency notification or assistance?

Next week the Lava Dogs will all be back from Lava Viper and several days have been set aside the following week to get some of the above things in order. Briefs will be provided, as well as opportunities to update wills and powers of attorney. It will be the perfect opportunity for families to continue discussing the business side of the deployment; things like how and by whom bills will be paid, where important documents will be kept, where emergency contact numbers will be kept, expiration dates on important documents, who needs power of attorney and what for, etc. Three months will go by quickly and it is my hope that any urgent situations that may arise for families during the deployment will be resolved or at least lightened by families having the documents and information they may need ready and available.

Kind Regards,
Theresa

L.I.N.K.S.



OFF-ISLAND SPOUSES: Did you know that if you are not near a Marine Corps Base, you can still take LINKS online? See PAGE 8 of this newsletter for how to sign on!!

What is LINKS? Go to the link below to find out!!

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/links/index/cfm>

PARENTS: Want to take the parents version of LINKS? You can order a package by mail from our K-Bay Trainer! Email your mailing address to staci.holt@usmc.mil

MARINES/SAILORS of 1/3: LINKS for Marines to go 4 ~ 8 April

ON-ISLAND SPOUSES: Next LINKS class on K-Bay will be:

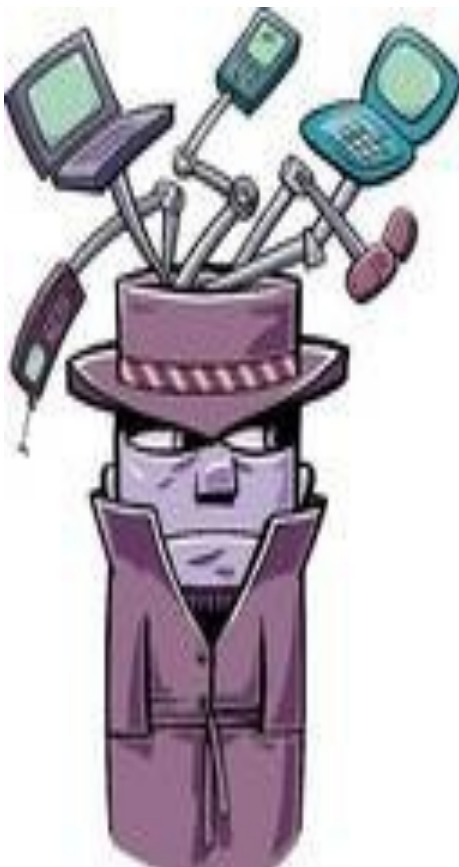
15 and 16 February from 5pm~9pm each night @ MCFTB conference room
8 and 9 March from 0900~1300 each morning @ MCFTB conference room.

KEY DATES FOR LAVA DOG FAMILIES

4 –7 Feb	Battalion 72 from 08:00 on 4 Feb to 1300 on 7 Feb
12-14 Feb	Advance Party Departs for 29 Palms California
15 Feb	ABCs of OpSEC and FRA Meeting ~ 6pm-730pm Waikulu Community
17-19 Feb	Main Body Departs for 29 Palms California
27 Feb	1/3 Girl's Night Out~Haleawa Joes, Kaneohe
1 Mar	1/3 Baby Shower
8 Mar	1/3 CACO brief for families~6pm-730pm Waikulu Community Center
8/9 Mar	LINKS for spouses~0900-1300
18 Mar	Girls's Night Out~K-Bay Bowling Lanes
26 Mar	Kid's Mock Deployment
27-29 Mar	EMV Return Window
29 Mar	Advance Party Pre-deployment Brief
12 Apr	Main Body Pre-Deployment Brief
14 Apr	1/3 Spring Family Day

More information to come on events, but please save the dates!!

~ABC'S OF OPERATIONAL SECURITY~



What is OPSEC? Do you Facebook, use a cell phones, send texts or emails? Are you careful what you share using this technology or what you say when out in public with friends? Are you sure? The below link will take you to a flyer put out by the US Army that will help you be sure..it's important, take a look!

www.armymedice.army.mil/sfrc/OPSECTrifold.pdf

If you are on-island, you can join us for a special event we are calling the ABC's of OPSEC. Details for this event are below.

ABC's of OPSEC

PRESENTED BY JAYME ALEXANDER

Waikulu Community Center on K-Bay

Tuesday, February 15th from 6pm to 7:30pm

Limited free childcare HOWEVER

you MUST RSVP for the childcare

RSVP to

Theresa.Thoma@usmc.mil

Access L.I.N.K.S. Training Online at

<https://www.marinenet.usmc.mil/>

1

Register with Marine Net

Click on the **'Marine Net Logon'** icon then follow the instructions to enroll as a New User. You will be asked to provide your Social Security Number (SSN)*, date of birth (DOB) and last name.

**You must be enrolled in the Defense Enrolment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in order to access classes on Marine Net. Enrollment in DEERS is also a requirement for obtaining an ID card. If you have a current ID, you are probably in DEERS.*

Once

signed on as a new user, you will be asked to log on again using your SSN and password

2

Enroll in L.I.N.K.S.

Once registered.....

3. Click on **Course Catalog** then click on **Family and Personal Readiness Courses**.
4. Select **L.I.N.K.S. Online training**.

Click on **L.I.N.K.S.** in the Course Title Column. Select **enroll in course** under the 'actions' column. You are now officially enrolled in L.I.N.K.S. Online. You can enroll in any of the online Family Readiness programs the same way.... courses like KVN Online or SLS online.

3

Start L.I.N.K.S.

Once enrolled....

1. Click on the **'Enrollments'** icon - to the left.

Click again on the **L.I.N.K.S.** title and then, select **launch course** under the 'actions' column. Start the course. Enjoy!



Need help? Call 1-888-435-8762 or click on "Help Online"



~
~OPERATION KID COMFORT QUILTS~



Operation Kid Comfort Quilts are for children, ages six and under (pillows for the older kids), of deployed service men and women. To receive a quilt, please submit this completed form along with nine photographs (high resolution digital format that is emailed is preferred) that will help the child cope during the parent's deployment. As all materials and services are donated, there is no fee for this program. Send applications and photos to pearlharbor@asymcahi.org or call 808-473-3398. Quilts are completed within 10-12 weeks. Please do not submit a quilt request form if the deployed parent is expected to return within the next 12 weeks or if your child has previously received a quilt.

Tracy Kamemoto
Armed Services YMCA
Outreach Director-Pearl Harbor
1057 North Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
(808) 473-3398
Pearlharbor@asymcahi.org

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EVENTS Calendar, MCB Hawaii

www.mccshawaii.com/calendar.shtml

EVENTS For our families on the other side of the mountain! Make use of Pearl Harbor, all services are available to you!

www.greatlifehawaii.com

TAX TIME: Free tax program and counselors to answer your tax questions, available to active duty military and their dependants!

www.militaryonesource.com

HISTORY OF 1st Battalion, 3d Marines on Wikipedia...been where, done what??

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_battalion_3d_marines

CAREER PLANNER ~ SSgt Roman



Re-enlistees while at PTA:

27 January:

Sgt StJohn, Jason

Sgt Gaar, Anthony

28 January:

LCpl Heaton, Ryan

LCpl Ellmer (above) reenlisted Jan 28th 2011 at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii during Lava Viper. LCpl Ellmer has completed two combat deployments and will be deploying one more time with 1st Battalion, 3d Marines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Devil Dog Enters the trenchline.....



Marines on the attack, PTA, Range 10



LtCol Riordan and the three Rifle Company Commanders

Captain Stibb (B),

Captain Cavan (A)

Captain Siedlecki (C)



1ST BATTALION, 3D MARINES FAMILY READINESS POLICY



1st Battalion, 3d Marines Family Readiness is a command priority. Combat readiness is built on a foundation of strong, supportive, and informed families.

Our program provides comprehensive support and information to the spouses and families of 1/3 Marines and Sailors. It serves as a support network for our families in Hawaii and on the Mainland, with family being defined as spouses, parents, children, siblings, and others such as fiancées or girlfriends designated by the Marine or Sailor. Our program supports family values; recognizes key life milestones such as the birth of children, anniversaries, and marriage. The program informs families of the military resources available to them and seeks to be as inclusive as possible.

The 1/3 Family Readiness Program is executed from my guidance and direction through our Family Readiness Officer (FRO), who is a non-deployable, full-time civilian, special staff officer. The FRO will be assisted by a uniformed Assistant FRO and three specially designated Family Readiness Advisors; the Commanding Officer's wife, an officer's wife, and an enlisted Marine's wife. This group along with the Family Readiness Assistants (FRA's) receives formal training on military resources and procedures, and work as a team to make up the foundation of our program. These individuals assist me in understanding what is important to our families and help ensure we meet the expectations of our extended Lava family.

Guiding Principles

- We understand that the success of our team and mission is enhanced by strong, informed families
- We seek to be informed and available resources to families in need of assistance
- We are committed to active engagement with 1/3 families through a variety of means
- We seek to connect the families of 1/3 personnel through regular, open meetings
- We suppress rumors and use the 1/3 Family Readiness Team as a centralized source of command- approved, accurate information
- We respect the need to safeguard operational and personal information

Family Readiness Advisors

- Have a volunteer spirit and are dedicated to 1/3 Marines, Sailors, and their families
- Know and understand military resources, and can show others how to access them
- Assist to welcome new wives, children, and families, and reach out to existing families
- Assist in planning fun and educational family events and meetings
- Are informal advisors with regular, direct contact with the Command Team
- Are a friendly face and a strong shoulder for those in need

S. M. Riordan
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer